

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 SCI-06 AEC-11 PM-07 SS-15

L-03 H-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EA-11

EB-11 SCEM-02 NEA-10 RSR-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /169 W

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R 242030Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7023

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BONN 12172

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, GW,EG

SUBJECT: PNE'S AND THE QATTARA DEPRESSION

REF: A. STATE 156583; B. BONN 9647

SUMMARY: FRG MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (MEC) ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY. EMBASSY PRESENTED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL TO FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL WHO ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF US VIEWS ABOUT AMENDMENT OF LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY IN ACCORDANCE WITH IMPLICATIONS OF NON PROLIFERATION TREATY AND WHETHER US COULD ASSIST FEASIBILITY STUDY OF USE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES IN EGYPT IF FRG WERE TO PAY FOR ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FRG MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (MEC) PUBLISHED FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON AUGUST 21 QUOTE FRG SUPPORTS EGYPTIAN ENERGY PROJECT. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT EGYPT

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN PREPARATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ONE OF LARGEST ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE WORLD. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY FRG DEPUTY SECRETARY (STAATSEKRETAER) FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PROF. KARL HEINZ SOHN, ON AUGUST 17, IN A MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTER FOR ELECTRIC POWER, SULTAN ISMAIL. THE PROJECT INVOLVES A HYDRO-POWER PLANT IN EGYPTIAN QATTARA DEPRESSION WHICH, AFTER COMPLETION, WOULD PRODUCE TEN THOUSAND MEGAWATTS ELECTRIC POWER. THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE A DECISIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT. THE FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS. UNQTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. AN MEC OFFICIAL PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND DATA: THE FRG WILL PROVIDE DM 8-10 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF A THREE-YEAR FEASIBILITY STUDY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY AN EGYPTIAN COMMITTEE WITH EXPERT ADVICE SUPPLIED THROUGH GERMAN RECONSTRUCTION LOAN CORPORATION (KREDIT-ANSTALT FÜR WIEDERAUFBAU, KFA). THE STUDY WILL FOCUS ON THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT, AND WILL CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF USING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR THE CANAL'S CONSTRUCTION. THE FRG HOPES THE FEASIBILITY STUDY CAN BE UNDERWAY BY THE END OF YEAR AND KFA IS PREPARING PRELIMINARY PLANS. END OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH DR. RANDERMANN, CHIEF FOREIGN OFFICE ATOMIC ENERGY SECTION, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN US VIEWS ABOUT USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR THIS PROJECT. KFA HAS REQUESTED COMMENTS FROM FONOFF TO ASSIST STUDY OF LEGAL ASPECTS THIS QUESTION. EMBOFFS PROVIDED RANDERMANN WITH POINTS CONTAINED PARA 2A THROUGH 2G FROM REF A (LESS FYI SECTIONS) AND, AS INSTRUCTED, SUGGESTED THAT FON OFF MIGHT WISH TO REVIEW THESE POINTS WITH THE MINISTRIES OF ECONOMICS AND OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. RANDERMANN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THESE US VIEWS AND EXPLAINED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT HE HAD BEEN AWARE, OF COURSE, OF LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY(LTBT). FRG WAS ALSO WELL AWARE, HE SAID, THAT AMENDMENT OF LTBT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND MIGHT TAKE YEARS.

4. RANDERMANN RECALLED, HOWEVER, THAT ARTICLE FIVE OF NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) PROVIDED THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES WOULD ASSIST NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES

WITH PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. STATEMENTS BY US OFFICIALS AND US-FRG CONSULTATIONS DURING NEGOTIATION OF NPT HAD GIVEN FRG IMPRESSION THT LTBT WOULD BE AMENDED TO MAKE IT CONSISTENT WITH NPT. HOWEVER, FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD REPORTED THAT US STATE DEPARTMENT AT PRESENT BELIEVED LTBT SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE AMENDED. RANDERMANN NOTED THAT POINTS PRESENTED BY EMBOFFS ALSO SEEMED OFFER LITTLE HOPE THAT USG WOULD ATTEMPT AMEND LTBT. HE BELIEVED AMENDMENT OF THE LTBT MIGHT WELL BE NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE FOR PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES EVEN IF PRESENT QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT WERE NOT REPEAT NOT UNDERTAKEN. RANDERMANN REQUESTED FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF USG VIEWS ON THIS POINT.

5. RANDERMANN ALSO ASKED FOR MORE DETAILED INTERPRETATION OF US POINT FROM PARA 2F, REFTEL. HE ASKED WHETHER US WOULD BE PERMITTED UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT TO ASSIST FEASIBILITY STUDY IF FRG PAID FOR ASSISTANCE RECEIVED.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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6. RANDERMANN OBSERVED ON "PERSONAL" BASIS THAT IF

QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT PROVES FEASIBLE AND DESIRABLE, AND IF FRG AND US DO NOT REPEAT NOT HELP CARRY IT OUT. "OTHERS" MAY WELL DO SO. HE EXPLAINED THAT KFA IS BEGINNING PRELIMINARY STUDY OF PROJECT AND PLANS TO SEND A TEAM TO CAIRO IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. ONLY IF THIS PRELIMINARY STUDY SHOWS THAT THE PROJECT IS FEASIBLE AND ECONOMIC WILL FRG PROCEED TO SUPPORT FULL-SCALE FEASIBILITY STUDY MENTIONED IN PUBLISHED RELEASE BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IN RANDERMANN'S VIEW USE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES WILL BE ONLY CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE CONSIDERED IN FEASIBILITY STUDY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR A RESPONSE TO TWO POINTS RAISED BY RANDERMANN IN PARA 4 AND 5 ABOVE. END CONFIDENTIAL. CASH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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